



News Release

ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL INVITES WORLD OCEAN COUNCIL INPUT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WOC CEO Addresses Arctic Economic Council on Opportunities for Collaboration in Sustainable Development

9 May 2017

The Arctic Economic Council (AEC) invited the World Ocean Council (WOC) to provide a briefing on the WOC and to identify and foster discussion on priorities for collaboration in Arctic sustainable development.

The AEC Annual Meeting convenes all the business representatives from the 8 Arctic States and 6 indigenous organizations. At this 3rd AEC Annual Meeting, for the first time non-voting members and several outside presentations were invited.

WOC CEO, Paul Holthus, focussed on two key areas for collaboration, stating, “There is an important opportunity for the AEC and WOC to partner in increasing the role of industry in collecting and sharing data in the Arctic, such as through the use of ships to host or deploy instruments. The WOC is working to advance our ‘Smart Ocean-Smart Industries’ program in the Arctic to cost-effectively increase the understanding of Arctic weather, climate, seabed, ocean ecosystems, acidification and other often poorly documented aspects of the region.”

“Secondly, more broadly, the AEC and the WOC could well work together - with and for the overall Arctic business community - in the crafting of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets and indicators for the Arctic private sector, building on the overall SDGs and the work of the WOC in analysing the SDGs and developing guidance for the ocean business community.”

The Arctic Economic Council (AEC) is an independent organization that facilitates Arctic business-to-business activities and responsible economic development through the sharing of best practices, technological solutions, standards, and other information.

The 2017 AEC Annual Meeting is taking place in Fairbanks, Alaska, May 8-9, 2017, in conjunction with the Ministerial Arctic Council meeting and the gathering of many other Arctic stakeholders in Fairbanks during the Week of the Arctic.

In parallel with the Arctic Council’s chairmanship transferring to Finland this week, leadership of the Arctic Economic Council will be taken on by Finland-based Tero Vauraste, President and CEO of Arctia Ltd (a WOC Member company).

SAVE THE DATE

Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) 2017: 29 Nov-01 Dec, Halifax, Canada

**SOS 2017 Theme: “The Ocean Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14):
Business Leadership and Business Opportunities”**

Mark your calendars for this unique gathering of the global ocean business community.

Upcoming WOC Outreach and Engagement

8-12 May, BARCELONA

Oceanoise 2017 (Invited Speaker)

12 May, LONDON

Valuing the Oceans: Scoping a Supplement to the Natural Capital Protocol (Participant)

14 May, BEIJING

Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (Invited Panelist)

16 May, BEIJING

2nd Silk Road Summit (Invited Panelist)

18-19 May, POOLE

European Maritime Days (Invited Speaker and Workshop Participant)

About the World Ocean Council (WOC)

The WOC is the only international, cross-sectoral alliance for private sector leadership and collaboration in sustainability, stewardship and science. Companies from a range of industries worldwide are distinguishing themselves as leaders in “Corporate Ocean Responsibility”, including: shipping, oil and gas, tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, mining, renewable energy, ocean technology, investment. WOC Members are listed [here](#), a part of the WOC Network of 35,000+ ocean industry stakeholders around the world. The WOC is a registered not-for-profit organization in the US and the UK/Europe.

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